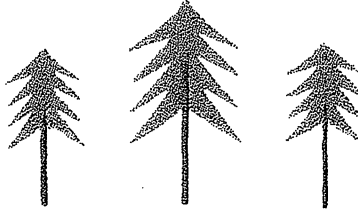


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April 8, 2011

Ed Shepard
State Director, Oregon and Washington
Bureau of Land Management
333 SW 1st Avenue,
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, Oregon, 97204

RE: WESTERN OREGON PILOT PROJECTS

Dear Ed,

The Association of O&C Counties is very interested in actively participating in the Roseburg, Medford and Coos Bay pilot projects. As we understand it, the purpose of these pilots is to provide a landscape demonstration of a forest management approach that integrates ecosystem restoration, sustainable timber harvest, conservation of endangered species and provides economic stability to communities. The projects will focus on a collaborative process that will allow all the players to come to the table throughout the process with the intent of utilizing the results in developing a land use plan across the O&C and Coos Bay Wagon Road landscape in Western Oregon.

To insure active involvement by all participants throughout the process, we request the following:


1. Detailed schedules for each of the pilot projects.
2. Implementation of a collaborative process for each pilot that allows all stakeholders to be actively involved in EA development, consultation, monitoring etc. (Similar to the cooperator process that was established in WOPR, but this time bringing all parties to the table.)
3. Develop environmental assessments that involve alternatives to the pilot proposals. There needs to be an analysis of all alternatives including the proposal to determine and understand the affects of each.
4. Include in the pilot projects treatments within the riparian reserves. ESA consultation issues involving National Marine Fisheries need to be addressed and resolved to demonstrate that these ecological principles will work across the landscape.
5. Develop a system for replicating Dr. Johnson and Franklin's principles of ecological forestry to all O&C and CBWR lands (not just Matrix lands) based on results and information obtained from the demonstration areas. The question that needs to be

answered is: Will this ecological approach resolve the long standing issues involving the NWFP; endangered species; water quality; timber harvest based on sustained yield; old growth; jobs; county revenues etc. and allow BLM to meet the requirements of the O&C Act. If the pilots cannot be replicated successfully across the landscape to produce the results called for by the O&C Act, they will be of no use.

As was discussed at the January 21, 2011 Association of O&C Counties Board of Directors meeting our point of contact is Rocky McVay, and Van Manning will participate on behalf of the Association in the analysis of the three pilots. Rocky can be reached at rocky@blypac.com or at 541-412-1624 and Van can be reached at vanbonmanning@comcast.net or at 253-549-0074

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Commissioner Doug Robertson
President, Association of O&C Counties

cc: Jay Carlson, Roseburg BLM District
Dayne Baron, Medford BLM District
Mark Johnson, Coos Bay BLM District